THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) An international centre on the lines of Pragati Maidan, New Delhi has been set up in the White field area of Bangalore. The Centre, namely Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation (KTPO), is a Joint Venture of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. ITPO and KIADB hold 51% and 49% shares respectively in this joint venture.

(c) and (d) A similar centre namely Tamilnadu Trade Promotion Organisation (TNTPO) has been set up at Chennai as a joint venture of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO). Other centres/projects are also planned at Kolkata and Guwahati.

Suggestions of experts on Intellectual Property Rights

783. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experts on Intellectual Property Rights urged the Government of India to have separate courts to deal with issues connected with patents and intellectual property rights in the light of the new patent regime invoked from 1st January, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the request made by experts;

(c) whether any action has been initiated in this direction by the Government of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) In the new patent regime, effective from 1st January, 2005, there is no proposal to set up special courts to deal with issues connected with patents and intellectual property rights. However, Government has set up an Intellectual Property Appellate Board in view of the specialised nature of work. The Board is an appellate forum against orders of the Registrar of Trade Marks and also the Registrar of Geographical Indications. Its jurisdiction is further proposed to be extended to the decisions of the Controller of Patents under the Indian patent law.